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R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE ABSTRACT

It is noted that the original abstract had been amended by way of the Preliminary Amendment filed on July 26, 2001. In the Preliminary Amendment, the original abstract was amended to avoid using the term "comprises". And it is respectfully submitted that although the abstract as amended in the Preliminary Amendment is only one sentence long, it still nevertheless complies with the requirements of MPEP 608.01(b). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

For the Examiner's convenience, submitted herewith is a copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed July 26, 2001 along with a copy of the return receipt postcard from the Patent Office evidencing receipt thereof.

RE: THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 have been amended to clarify the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the main screen of the present invention is formed from at least two screen sheet members having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane.

~~Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to make minor grammatical~~  
improvements and/or to correct minor antecedent basis problems.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to avoid minor antecedent basis problems.

And new claims 7 and 8 have been added to recite the feature of the present invention disclosed in the specification at page 9, lines 1-6.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the claims, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to claims 1-6 are not related to patentability and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being clearly anticipated by USP 6,278,546 ("Dubin et al"), and claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Dubin et al and JP 6-273852 ("Mitani et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in claim 1, a rear projection type projector is provided which can provide a large-sized screen which is manufacturable at a low cost and which has large display area. Conventionally, in order to provide a large-sized screen having a large display area, a

~~special manufacturing line was required resulting in a high~~  
manufacturing cost.

However, according to the present invention as recited in claim 1, a main screen is formed from at least two screen sheet members having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane, and a transmissive diffusion screen is arranged behind the main screen on an optical path of luminous fluxes projected from a projector. With this structure, luminous fluxes refracted or reflected by the junction plane are diffused over a range so that almost no line caused by the junction plane is observed by an observer. (See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 4.)

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Fig. 11H of Dubin et al discloses the above described structural features of the present invention as recited in claim 1 (as well as each of claims 2 and 4-6). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Fig. 11H of Dubin et al merely discloses a one piece prescreen 117 held in contact with a screen 118 by light blocking baffles 1171. And it is respectfully submitted that neither Fig. 11H nor any other part of the disclosure in Dubin et al teaches or suggests a main screen formed from at least two screen sheet members having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane, as according to the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 clearly patentably distinguishes over Dubin et al.

~~It is also pointed out that claim 3 recites, in a manner~~  
similar to claim 1, a first lenticular lens screen formed from at least two lenticular lens sheets having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane. And it is respectfully submitted that Dubin et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest this feature of the present invention, and that claim 3 also clearly patentably distinguishes over Dubin et al.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Dubin et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention relating to the junction plane recited in each of claims 4 and 6-8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims further patentably distinguish over Dubin et al.

Still further, it is noted that Mitani et al has merely been cited for the disclosure therein of a second lenticular sheet.

Accordingly, is respectfully submitted that even if the cited references were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the above described structural features of the claimed present invention would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in claims 1-8 patentably distinguishes over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

\* \* \* \* \*

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

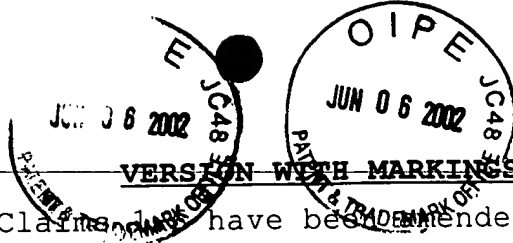
~~If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or~~  
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the  
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt  
action.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims have been amended as follows:

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1. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector comprising:

a main screen [made by bonding a plurality of] formed from at least two screen sheet members [of which] having respective edges which are bonded [into a sheet as] together at a junction plane; and

a transmissive diffusion screen arranged behind the main screen on an optical path of luminous fluxes projected from a projector.

2. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector according to claim 1, wherein:

the main screen [is] comprises a lenticular lens screen [using] formed from at least two lenticular lens sheets as the screen sheet [member] members.

3. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector [according to claim 2, wherein] comprising:

a first lenticular lens screen formed from at least two lenticular lens sheets having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane;

a transmissive diffusion screen arranged behind the first lenticular lens screen on an optical path of luminous fluxes projected from a projector; and

a second [main screen comprising a] lenticular lens screen arranged in the optical path between the first lenticular lens screen and the transmissive diffusion screen, said second lenticular lens screen having a lens arrangement oriented perpendicular to [the] a lens arrangement of the first lenticular lens screen [is further arranged in the optical path between the lenticular lens screen and the transmissive diffusion screen].

~~4. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector~~  
according to claim 1, wherein:

the junction plane is positioned [so that the main screen is  
off the] along an off center portion of [the] a main surface  
5 [thereof] of the main screen.

5. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector  
according to claim 1, wherein:

the [passing] luminous fluxes are diffused more largely in a  
direction perpendicular to the junction plane than in a direction  
5 in parallel with the junction plane from among directions within  
[the] a main surface of the transmissive diffusion screen.

6. (Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector  
according to claim 1, wherein:

the junction plane is positioned in [the] proximity of [the]  
a center of [the] a main surface of the main screen.